

16 August 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Congressional Hearings on Classification System

The undersigned and the other drafters of the new Executive Order on security classification being prepared pursuant to PRM-29 were told during meetings on 15 and 16 August that the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (Pryor Committee) planned to hold hearings on the classification system right after the new Order is signed. Gary Barron, NSC Staff, said he had talked with Britt Snider and another member of the Pryor Committee staff on this matter on 15 August, and that they seemed encouraged by the direction the new Order was taking. They told him that the Committee planned to start a series of four hearings on 20 September. [That date is predicated on the PRM-29 schedule which calls for the new Order to be ready for the President's signature on 15 September; which date is now likely to be slipped for a week to ten days.] At the first hearings, the Pryor Committee plans to seek testimony from principals (e.g., Dr. Brzezinski) to set the tone and ask about the background and intent of the new Order. The follow-on hearings would seek testimony from persons within agencies affected by the new Order, and would ask about specific effects, costs, and manpower impact.

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DCI Security Committee

cc: A/D/DCI/IC
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